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# The People.

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VOL. IX.—NO. 19.

HENRY KUHN, Nat'l Sec'y, S.L.P.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 6, 1899.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

## THE STRICKEN SOUTH.

Run up the S. L. P. and S. T. & L. A. Banners to the Mast-head, Workers, and Fall to Everywhere!

ATLANTA, GA., July 20.—The sensation created by the report of City Warden Hunter to the City Council recently to the effect that he was daily called upon to furnish the means of sustenance to cotton mill wage slaves in Atlanta, has been followed up by a full investigation of the condition of affairs at the mills. This investigation shows that, while many have been helped by the city, hundreds more are in dire distress, and are given no help. To add to this awful condition of affairs, on Saturday night, July 15th, at midnight, 400 operatives at the Fulton Cotton Mills were discharged and notice of eviction was served on them, from the company's houses, to take effect July 22nd.

The Fulton Mills recently started a night run; advertised for workers, and brought them here from as far as Texas; many of the night workers were children; they were required to go to work at 6 p. m., and work till 6 a. m.—12 hours. The children couldn't stand it; many of them fell asleep at midnight, standing at the machines; and because these people could not work like engines they were suddenly discharged, and ordered to get out of the Company's houses. Not only are they thrown out of doors, but everything they made as wages has been stolen from them by the Capitalist thieves. The 400 starved slaves will, no doubt, now be used to displace those now working elsewhere, if it is possible to cut wages any lower. Not only has this concern robbed labor of all it could, but it secured exemption from the payment of taxes for twenty years to the city, on the plea that it would invest big capital here.

The week before last, a mother and four daughters, living in one of the mill houses on Richard street, were taken sick through lack of sufficient food. After being out of the mill three days, they were sent for to return to work, but were unable to go. Then they were ordered to vacate the house. Two of them being in bed sick, and having no other place to move in, of course could not comply with the order. A special officer of the Mill then appeared on the scene, and, carrying out instructions of the company, moved them out into the street, carrying one girl out on a mattress. They remained on the street for three days, sick and helpless, before their distress was relieved and a shelter provided for them by some of the mill workers.

Another mill worker had a finger smashed in the machinery. A fellow workman was assisting him to dress it when the superintendent fined him for stopping work, whereupon the man called for his time and walked out. There are more of similar cases that occur daily. Exorbitant rent is charged for the miserable huts called houses owned by the company; two rooms, costing \$5 a month. The average rent in the big pig-pen, called "the hotel," of eighty rooms, is sixty cents a room per week, and as all this is subtracted from the pay of the operatives, and they are forced to occupy the houses at the terms of the Company, it is one of their big sources of profit. They practically get their work for nothing, and, as they pay no taxes to the city, are amassing immense wealth through this robber capitalist system. It is the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills I have been talking about.

Now, I'll go across town to the Exposition Cotton Mills, and, ye gods and little fishes! listen!

The Exposition Mills, the President of which was for some time President of the Atlanta Charity Association, are on Marietta street, about two miles from the center of the city. The mills, two in number, employ about 1,500 men, women and children, whose ages range from nine to sixty years. They exist in huts owned by the Company; their provisions are purchased from the Company's commissary; they must obey all the rigid rules laid down by the Company, and are as much part and parcel of the great machine as the shuttles and looms.

The "houses" are mainly two-room affairs, many of them at present being old and dilapidated. These houses were, a few years ago, only boards thrown together, with wide cracks between, through which the snow and rain drifted, and are little better now. The best of the "houses" rent for \$2.25 per month, while the older ones bring a dollar less. The squalor, filth, bad ventilation, and unsanitary condition of these houses present a sorry picture. At the rear of one row of houses is a large pool of stagnant water, with a thick coating of green slime over the entire surface. This miasmatic pond is infinitely suggestive of malaria and typhoid fever, and its presence is enough to contaminate the entire neighborhood. Many of the "houses" are built over ditches, in which foul water stands the year round. Quite a number of families are so crowded for space that three or more beds are put in one room, the shameless huddling together of the sexes which is thus entailed, being easier imagined than described. In fact, one of the saddest features of life in this squalid colony is the total absence of anything like privacy; its effect in degrading and brutalizing the unfortunate people is plainly to be seen. They seem to be sunk in hopeless misery and poverty.

The average pay of a wage-slave at the Exposition Cotton Mills is 40 cents for a day of twelve hours. Many make much less, and there are grown men and women who are paid less than 40 cents. The children, many of whom are from 6 to 10 years of age, get from nine to twenty-five cents a day. The majority of the Exposition Mill hands have the pathetic homeliness of poverty. They show in their cadaverous faces the lack of good food, good air and proper sanitation, and most of them wear that dull and apathetic look noticeable among wage-slaves who have been crushed to a point beyond resistance. They seem to have settled down to a listless resignation, and, since the lash of Capitalism keeps them in ignorance, it is a hard matter to make them understand that they can help themselves. The Mill settlement swarms with children of all ages and sizes, and most of them are wretchedly dirty and unkempt. It must be borne in mind, of course, that the mothers of these children are usually hard at work in the Mill from daylight to dark. In fact, everybody in the family who is large enough to stand is obliged to work in order to make enough to exist on, and the little ones (babies) have to look after themselves as best they may. A woman who has toiled twelve hours over a loom hasn't much energy left for her household duties.

It costs \$48 to make a bale of cotton in the Mill into cloth, counting labor and all, for which the Capitalist Mill owner receives \$190, thus giving to the Capitalist a profit, ground out of labor, of \$142.

What a Klondike for the capitalists is the cotton industry in the South!

The Southern papers have for several years flooded their columns with advice to the New England Cotton Mills to move South, always emphasizing the fact that labor was so much cheaper here—about 60 per cent.; that the laborers were so happy and contented that they would mob a labor agitator who came among them; that they loved their capitalist masters so much that they worked longer hours and more hours in a week for them than the workers anywhere else, and, besides, they always went to the Mill Church on Sunday morning, of which the Mill owner is also the owner, and listened to the beautiful sermon of the capitalist-hired minister, who never forgot to conclude his sermon with a reminder that they should be happy, no matter what condition they were in, and that their poverty in this life was necessary to prepare them for happiness in the next.

When the New England capitalists heard, through the newspapers, of the fact that Cotton Mill capitalists were having in the South, they sent a committee of their number here to see if it was true; but about that time some Socialist agitators came South, too, and while the investigation was proceeding, lo and behold! what happened? A big strike at the Fulton Cotton Mills, in Atlanta! The Mill slaves were organizing, when a number of them were discharged and supplanted by negro labor, because it was cheaper and unorganized. Thereupon the entire force of Mill workers struck, and, after being out several days, won the strike, although the active participants in the strike were later discharged and their union crippled. But while the strike was in progress, the Executive Committee of the strikers issued a manifesto to the people, and this manifesto is such a strong indictment against capitalism that it is herewith reproduced:

MANIFESTO OF THE STRIKERS ISSUED BY TEXTILE UNION.

The Strikers Declare they are not Fighting the Negroes, but are Contending Only for Their Rights—Plain Talk About the Mill Owners.

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the employees of the Fulton Cotton Mills, herewith present to the public the attitude of the cotton mill workers in the present controversy. Notwithstanding the fact that these 1,400 wage-workers, composed mostly of women and children, have for years been compelled to have their flesh and blood counted in dollars and cents by the mill owners, owing to excessively long hours of work and extremely low wages, they are now subjected to such indignities as would meet the condemnation of every loyal white citizen of Atlanta, and also of the majority of self-respecting black citizens.

The efforts of the Fulton mill owners to force the white women and girls employed there to work with the negro women who were placed among them, is a deliberate attempt to eliminate the white wage-slaves from this avocation and substitute black wage-slaves, because they will work cheaper, although the white wage-slaves do not live but simply exist.

The real question at issue now is one of wages and not of prejudice. The mill owners know that the white workers are organizing and becoming more intelligent, and they are making an effort to keep them in subjection by employing cheaper labor and forcing the white workers out of employment. The large dividends declared by the cotton mill proprietors enable them to employ white labor and pay good wages and still make good profits, but their desire to acquire great wealth at the cost of human life blinds them to all acts of fairness, and they adopt methods which degrade manhood, prostitute womanhood and debase childhood.

The published accounts of the controversy make it appear to the public that it is a strike originating in racial prejudice, but such is not the case. It is a strike against the introduction of cheaper labor against forcing those people out of work who have held the positions for years, and against the damnable wage-slave system which is building up this cotton mill and the cotton industry of Atlanta on the bodies and souls of the daughters and sons of the fair southland.

We realize that under the system of competitive capitalism conditions cannot be permanently improved, and that this system must be supplanted by a co-operative system, in which all shall have the opportunity to apply their labor power properly, before permanent relief can come to the people.

We call the attention of the people to the fact that the Messrs. Elzas are endeavoring to divert public opinion from the real question at issue, and to make it appear that we are not justifying our position at the present time, their efforts to displace us with what would prove to be within a short time cheaper labor.

Had we not struck against this at the beginning, we would shortly have been in a worse condition and be given much lower pay and worse treatment than ever before.

The white employees of the Fulton and other cotton mills are subjected to treatment worse than that ever allotted to the chattel slaves, and as proof of this we invite the people to go among them and learn the conditions under which they exist. It is a sad commentary upon our so-called civilization that such a state of affairs prevails among the wage-workers at the Fulton and other cotton mills, and we therefore call upon the people of Atlanta to support the cotton mill workers in their fight for self-preservation: for the right to life and liberty, and against the iniquitous treatment to which they are subjected.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION.

When the New England labor feccers read this, they packed up their duds and went back to New England, and told their fellow labor feccers that it was useless to come South; the agitators were already there, the discontent was spreading, and the Cotton Mill workers had begun a rebellion against conditions, and then they started to capture Cuba and the Philippines.

Some time after this strike, a big strike of Cotton Mill workers occurred in Columbus, Ga., and this was followed by a still bigger strike of 5,000 Mill workers in Augusta, lasting three months, since which time "mum" has been the word with the newspapers as to Southern Cotton Mill workers being happy and contented.

In the winter time there is intense suffering in the Cotton Mill districts. Last winter Sarah Stone, after a life of hard labor in the Mill district, froze and starved to death. She was in a hut without food or coal, and a cold spell came, after which the body of Sarah Stone was found frozen to death. She was a respected woman, who had worked for years in the Mill district. There are many instances of suffering and death when cold weather begins (and for about two months in the winter time, it is very cold here, the thermometer last winter going to 10 degrees below zero), and to give the reader a more definite idea of conditions at this place, the following headlines and all, is an exact reproduction of an article which appeared in the Atlanta "Journal," a daily paper published here, which shows that words can hardly describe the condition of the people at the Exposition Cotton Mills:

CRY FOR GOD'S POOR.

Indescribable Misery, Suffering and Poverty—At the Very Doors of Wealthy Atlanta—Pestilence and Famine in the Exposition Mills District—The Terrible and Horrible in the Car's Domain—The Living are Starving by Degrees—The Dead are Unburied—Many of the Sufferers will be Relieved by Death—To-morrow Dawns—Plea for Immediate Relief.

If there ever was an instance where words are totally inadequate to express terrible misery, suffering and poverty that instance has been in Atlanta.

"The Journal," on behalf of the stricken poor of the Exposition Mills factory district, where famine and pestilence are to-day making their worst record, appeals to every Christian man and woman in Atlanta's borders to lend a hand at once for the amelioration of their suffering. The following notice of a worker who has starved to death. The bodies of their dead are unburied. The living are suffering with pneumonia, fever and measles, and have neither food, fuel, nor clothing.

This factory district is just outside the city limits, and is reached by the Marietta street car line. The district comprises over two hundred small, crowded, one and two-room frame houses. The "Journal" some time ago sent a representative among the occupants of these buildings and described their poverty-stricken and miserable conditions.

For a while the good Samaritans of Atlanta responded liberally and the suffering of these unfortunates was temporarily relieved. Since that time, however, the inroads of poverty, famine and pestilence have produced misery that is overpowering and terrible to contemplate.

Something must be done at once—to-day. The bodies of the sufferers are called upon to be buried, remain unburied, and lie in the same room with those whom pneumonia or fever are fast leading to death, who have no one to even hand them a drink of water, who have no clothing or bed covering; who lie about on the floor of the hut they call a home, and starve and shiver through the bleakness of this dreary day.

"The Journal" begs you in the name of humanity, in the name of that Christian civilization which such an instance of suffering as this drags down, to help these people at once.

Go out to their houses this afternoon or to-night and witness their suffering. See the rooms wherein eight or ten members of one family are stricken down, where pneumonia and fever and measles are attacking their emaciated bodies, where there is no sanitation, no help or protection from the city, no medicine, no food, no fire, no nurse—nothing but torturing hunger and death!

All those who are willing to act as nurses or to help in the movement to relieve the distress of these sufferers are called upon to assemble at the home of Rev. J. B. Hawthorne, 76 Walton street, at 6 o'clock this evening. This is for immediate relief.

Another meeting of all people who can contribute towards or in any way assist in the relief of these people will be held in the basement of the First Baptist Church to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Every good Samaritan and every Christian in Atlanta who can help in this matter is urged to be present.

In the meantime any contributions for the sufferers in the way of money, food, fuel, or clothing can be sent to the "Journal" office.

If you wish to hear from any other authority of the misery of these people go to Dr. Hawthorne, Mrs. John M. Green, Mrs. J. D. Esterlin or Mr. Robert Monteith, who have been constant visitors recently among the sufferers.

"I have been in the slums of New York and other large cities," said Dr. Hawthorne this morning, "but I can truthfully say that I never saw misery and suffering equal to this."

"It is indescribable—the misery and suffering they endure," said Mrs. Green. "In one instance there is a paralytic, a boy who is idiotic, for whom his parents are unable to provide food. The sick have no one to even hand them a glass of water, the little children are crying for bread, and the most abject poverty is to be found on all sides. It is too horrible."

There are among the sufferers several who will die before morning. As the houses are outside the limits the city can do nothing. It rests upon the good Samaritans of Atlanta, and to them is the appeal made.

After reading the above, can any one doubt that the big dividends made by crushing the workers in the Cotton Mills represent crime in all its hideousness?

The writer went to Columbus, Ga., recently, and found that the Cotton Mill workers in the big Eagle and Phoenix Mills there were about on a par

with the slaves at the Exposition Mills here, and in North and South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and other cotton States through which the writer has travelled, the cotton mill workers were found to be equally as abject and poverty-stricken.

The black chattel slaves in the South, forty years ago, lived better than do the white Cotton Mill wage slaves in the South to-day. The black chattel slave had a home, was well fed, was cared for when sick, and was never out of a job. The white wage-slave doesn't get enough wages to be well fed; when he gets sick he is not cared for; and if he doesn't comply with all the dictates of his capitalist master, he has no home and no job. While chattel slavery was wrong and should never have been permitted to exist, yet it was a Paradise compared to the present wage-slavery which should be as completely wiped out.

Is more convincing proof needed to show that the workers are living in a capitalist hell?

The fangs of capitalism, dripping with the blood of its thousands of victims already murdered, are more and more piercing the vitals of the workers now living. This monster of destruction will continue its deadly work of crime, debauchery and prostitution until, arriving at the station of reckoning, it will be met and annihilated by the uncompromising class-conscious forces of the Socialist Labor Party, together with the Trade and Labor Alliance, and not a vestige of it will remain.

Down with the rule of Capitalism! Up with the Socialist Republic!

### Maryland Convention.

FOR GOVERNOR:  
J. A. Rugemer.

FOR COMPTROLLER:  
Julian Pierce.

BALTIMORE, Md., July 29, 1899.—The State Convention of the Socialist Labor Party of Maryland convened at the Labor Lyceum July 28th, and was called to order at 8 p. m., by the Secretary of the Maryland State Committee, Comrade R. T. Maycumber. The Convention then proceeded to elect temporary chairman and secretary as follows: Chairman, Henry A. McAnaney; Secretary, R. T. Maycumber. The following Comrades were then elected as a Committee on Credentials: Julian Pierce, Edward P. Coleman, Theo. Meyer. The report of the Committee on Credentials showed the following delegates present at the Convention duly entitled to seats: Alfred Johnson, M. C. Massie, Julian Pierce, Section Washington; A. Rugemer, M. Schmit, Frederick Diekmann, Section Canton; Henry A. McAnaney, John G. Miller, Robert W. Stevens, Theo. Meyer, Section Baltimore; Frank Kurtinaitis, First District Assembly Branch Baltimore; R. T. Maycumber, Third District Assembly Branch Baltimore; Edward P. Coleman, Second Ward Branch Baltimore. A vote being taken on the report of the Committee, the same was accepted, and the foregoing delegates seated as delegates to the Convention. On motion of Delegate Pierce, the Temporary Chairman and Secretary of the Convention were made permanent. The Convention then went into the nominations for candidates for Governor and Comptroller, with the following result: Comrade J. A. Rugemer was nominated as the Party's candidate for Governor, and Comrade Robert W. Stevens was nominated as the candidate for Comptroller. Comrade Julian Pierce, Henry A. McAnaney and M. C. Massie were elected as a committee to draft a suitable platform, the same to be submitted to the State Committee for approval.

A resolution was then adopted authorizing the State Committee to raise as large a fund as possible to be used in putting THE PEOPLE into the hands of as many workmen in Maryland as possible during the next three months. The following resolutions, after full discussion, were unanimously adopted by the Convention:

WHEREAS, It has always been the belief of the Socialist Labor Party that the Party should own the Party press; and

WHEREAS, Acting on that belief, the Socialist Labor Party built up the "Vorwärts," German official paper, and THE PEOPLE, English official paper, and made a contract with the "Volkszeitung" Publishing Association, of 184 William street, New York City, for publishing the aforesaid papers; and

WHEREAS, The "Volkszeitung" Publishing Association has recently brought forward the claim that the aforesaid papers are its private property, and in its effort to make fact out of theory, has denied the right of the Socialist Labor Party to control the editorial departments of the aforesaid papers, and has further turned them into papers hostile to the Party; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we indorse the action of the National Executive Committee in calling for a general vote on the proposition to withdraw from the "Volkszeitung" Publishing Association, and, second, for its energy in preventing the "Volkszeitung" Publishing Association from getting possession of the property of the Party held by the National Executive Committee.

RESOLVED, Further, that we indorse the NEW YORK PEOPLE in its position in the "Volkszeitung" controversy.

The Convention then adjourned sine die.

R. T. MAYCUMBER,  
Secretary.

## GENERAL VOTE

Ordered by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party.

COMRADES:—At its regular weekly meeting of Tuesday, August 1st, the National Executive Committee took a full survey of the situation created by the "Volkszeitung" conspiracy, and of all the previous events bearing a relation to it, with the following result:

Outside of the City of Greater New York, where the conspirators, with their sympathizers and dupes, constitute a hopeless minority of the membership of the Party in the said city, such as it was before the "Volkszeitung's" abortive coup d'etat, the whole country, with the exception of three hotbeds of local selfish machination, stands as firm as rock in support of the National Executive Committee.

The three exceptions are as follows:

1. PHILADELPHIA, whose German so-called "Socialist" paper, "Tageblatt," established on the same unsound financial principles, and consequently following the same lines of fakir-prophitizing and middle-class-cajoling policy as the "Volkszeitung," is a natural center of conspiracy against the Party. Philadelphia has been suspended, and is to be forthwith reorganized with its faithful element.

2. CHICAGO, who since the dark days of the Anarchists, has been morally, mentally and physically disrupted, and whose present aspiration to become the seat of the National Executive Committee is egged on by the ambition of the "Workers' Call" to become the national official organ of the Party in place of THE PEOPLE. Chicago is of little importance, but it is vigilantly watched, and its loyal and honorable element is ready to take proper action as soon as the occasion may call for it.

3. CLEVELAND, until yesterday the seat of a traitorous and incapable Board of Appeals, but now suspended, and about to be reorganized, as will be seen from the resolutions published below. There, also, an ambitious newspaper clique, the "Citizen" clique—is the center of machination. Cleveland has long been watched by the National Executive Committee, and the developments there are significant. In the first place, before the dispute of the "Volkszeitung" with the Party had reached an acute stage, Alexander Jonas, one of the chief plotters of the New York band, secretly visited Cleveland, and specially "saw" the members of the Board of Appeals. From that time the decisions of that Board began to be more remarkable than ever. Already then the Cleveland Sections had gradually become dominated, in part by hair-brained confusionists, and in part by a labor fakir element that joined the Party for self-protection in the pursuit of its trade. Men of the latter sort, finding that the red card did not afford them the security they sought, now turned around and used it in an attempt to smash the Party. Kenney, the National Secretary of the Brassworkers—whose president, Lynch, has been repeatedly nailed in the columns of THE PEOPLE—typifies this element, while the feather-brained, vainglorious confusionists, who, falling short of distinction in Populism, sought to fish in the rising S. L. P. for what they had failed to catch in the sinking hull of the P. P., are best typified by Hayes and Bandlow. From Ibsen's letter to the latest achievement of the Cleveland Sections and the Board of Appeals in recognizing the "Volkszeitung's" Kangaroos, without even giving the N. E. C. previous notice of its trial for life and pre-arranged execution, the facts are so well known to the readers of THE PEOPLE that there is no need to state them here again. In reply to the latest performance of the "Cleveland Comrades," the following Resolutions and Action of the National Executive Committee speak for themselves:

### RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, The Party's Constitution provides in unequivocal language that, in case of the suspension of the National Executive Committee, the only body that is to pass upon such action is the whole membership of the Party by referendum vote;

WHEREAS, The National Board of Appeals, located in Cleveland, O., has put the climax upon its long list of ridiculous, indecent and even treasonable decisions by itself presuming to pass upon the late alleged "suspension" of the National Executive Committee, thus arrogating to itself the functions of the Party referendum, and thereby even usurping the sovereign rights of the whole Party's membership;

WHEREAS, Such conduct is all the more flagrant in view of its being an attempt to uphold the admittedly illegal methods pursued by the organizers of the said alleged "suspension," wholly subversive of the Party constitution, which the Board of Appeals is pledged to uphold, and additionally flagrant in that not even the forms of judicial decency were observed and the side decided against given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, The Sections of Cleveland, O., have by a majority vote, sustained the Board of Appeals in its usurpation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Section Cleveland be, and hereby is, suspended, and the

National Secretary is ordered to proceed to reorganize the Section with the members who vainly sought to avert treason in their ranks; and

WHEREAS, This suspension of Section Cleveland inevitably carries with it the temporary suspension, as a member of the Party, of each and every member of the Board of Appeals, even though he may not be a party to the traitorous conduct of said Board, and may immediately recover his membership in the reorganized Section;

RESOLVED, That, acting in accordance with Sec. 6, Art. 5 of the Party Constitution, the National Executive Committee hereby appoints Section Providence, R. I., to choose a temporary Board of Appeals, that will act until the referendum vote hereinafter called for shall have taken place; and

WHEREAS, Every step of the National Executive Committee has always—and most especially since the reckless attacks made upon it by the "Volkszeitung" conspirators—been carefully taken with a strict regard for the Party Constitution, so as to challenge any possible insinuation that it assumed powers which it did not clearly possess; and

WHEREAS, The condition created by the necessary suspension of Section Cleveland is without a precedent;

RESOLVED, That the present action of the National Executive Committee, taken, as aforesaid, in accordance with Sec. 6 of Art. 5 of the Constitution, is hereby submitted to a referendum vote of the Party for approval or rejection; and

RESOLVED, That by the same referendum vote, nominations be made for the seat of the Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, The only possible settlement of the pending issue—inasmuch as such an issue has been brutally forced upon the membership of the Party—is for the said membership to stand up and count itself, namely:

1. On one side, those who, fully imbued with the spirit of Revolutionary Socialism, stand by the National Executive Committee and are determined to maintain at any cost and at all hazards, the constitution, platform, tactical resolutions and self-enforced discipline of the S. L. P.; to exact from the officials of their Party organizations, National, State and Local, the utmost vigilance and honesty in the enforcement of the Party policy; to strongly uphold the hands of such of those officials as are faithful to their trusts, and to sternly deal with such as may show weakness, indecision, or treachery under the guise of tolerance and freedom;

2. On the other side, those who countenance factional opposition to the Party policy, coups d'etat à la "Volkszeitung," and exploitation of the Socialist spirit of brotherhood and self-sacrifice for the benefit of private, corporate, or banded schemers; and

WHEREAS, Between two such elements as have just been described, there can be no more "harmony," no more "compromise," than between Revolutionary Socialism, which the first one intelligently and honestly represents, and "Bourgeoisism" (or Middle Class Capitalism), of which the other is the stupid or knavish cat's-paw;

RESOLVED, That by the same referendum vote hereby ordered to be taken concerning the above matter, the Party is also hereby called upon to answer the following question: "Is the course of action followed by the present National Executive Committee since it entered into office on March 28th, 1899, approved or disapproved?—Yes or No?"

The vote shall close on September 9, 1899.

By order of the National Executive Committee, S. L. P.  
HENRY KUHN,  
National Secretary.

New York, Aug. 1, 1899.

The Business Manager of THE PEOPLE authorizes the statement that, in the course of the last three weeks, since last July 15th, there were received over 1,300 new subscribers in this office.

NEW YORK MACHINISTS' ALLIANCE.

The above organization will have an important meeting to-day, Sunday, August 6th, 1899, at 10 o'clock A. M., at No. 53 East 11th street, Manhattan. All Socialist machinists should attend.

THE COMMITTEE.

## Supplement No. 3

TO THE

## Socialist Almanac

IS OUT.  
PRICE, 5 CENTS.

Every agitator for the S. L. P. should be in possession of this valuable little treatise. The pending campaign are going to be turned by the capitalist politicians largely into "taxation" campaigns, the same as recent ones were mainly "money" campaigns.

Send your orders to THE PEOPLE NEWS CO., 147 E. 23rd St., or to THE PEOPLE, 61 Beekman St., Box 1516, N. Y. City.



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## SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential).....2,068  
In 1890.....13,331  
In 1892 (Presidential).....21,157  
In 1894.....33,133  
In 1896 (Presidential).....85,564  
In 1898.....82,204

All the past we leave behind,  
We debase upon a newer, mightier world,  
varied world;  
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world  
of labor and we march,  
Pioneers! O, Pioneers!  
WALT WHITMAN.

## TO READERS AND COMRADES.

Take notice that the inscription "Henry Kuhn, Nat'l Sec'y, S. L. P." is inserted on the front page of THE PEOPLE, immediately under the title, to the right of the date. The insertion is made, and will continue to stand until further notice, in order to enable the reader, at first glance, to distinguish the Party organ from the counterfeit article that the "Volkszeitung" reactionists are attempting to cheat the public with.— Carry the news to Mary!

## THE VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The State Central Committee of Massachusetts adopted and issued the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, In the necessary and natural development of the Socialist movement each step of progress is made the scene of battle between the progressive and retrogressive forces within the Party, and on the surface this conflict appears as personal antagonism, as a bitter struggle for supremacy between the so-called leaders, and to this day men insist that the great momentum in society of 60 years ago, consequent upon the introduction of steam as a motive power a century earlier, was a personal conflict between Marx and Bakunin.

WHEREAS, The evolution of the social organism can but express itself through men by word and deed, the part that men play must be viewed from the social rather than the personal standpoint; harmony is an equilibrium of forces, a standstill; in harmony is activity necessary for the adjustment of forces of higher potential, and the words of men when translated into action are for or against the next step in social well-being.

WHEREAS, The comprehension of this great principle enables us to clearly view the crisis through which we are passing, with New York as the revolutionary center, this crisis being the culminating point in establishing Socialism upon a basis native to this country; be it, therefore,

RESOLVED, That we support with added zeal the efforts of our Comrades, Daniel De Leon and Hugo Vogt, editors of our official organ; Henry Kuhn, Secretary National Executive Committee; Lucien Sanial, Charles H. Matchett, Arthur K. A. Brown, Patrick Murphy and J. J. Kinneally, members of the National Executive Committee; Lazarus Abelson and such other New York Comrades as stand in the forefront of the battle now being waged for correct enunciation of socialist economics, the indisputable position upon the taxation question, and for the imperative social demand for the S. T. & L. A.

RESOLVED, That we unconditionally deny all statements and communications purporting to be official in the "Volkszeitung" issue of The People, for July 16, 1899, and that we refuse to entertain any correspondence purporting to be official emanating from its source; be it finally

RESOLVED, That we hail with joy our own edition of THE PEOPLE for July 16, 1899, which has been, and now is, so great a factor in educating the American proletariat in the science and conduct necessary to guide Socialist enthusiasm into channels of benefit to our country.

## THEY START IN EARLY.

At this season, when all over the country strikes are breaking out; when the dumb proletariat is blindly striking about, and not infrequently sold out by its miscreant leaders, an incident is recorded that sheds much light, not on the perverseness of pure and simpleminded only, but especially upon its widespread demoralizing effect.

Among the divisions of Labor in rebellious posture during the last week or two, the most sympathetic was that of the newsboys. They were on strike against two types of the Capitalist class: against the new millionaire, "Hungry Joe," of the "World," and the born millionaire, Hearst, of the "Journal." These social wails—who, ill-clad and worse fed and housed, have been spending their lung-power in rain and sunshine, in snow and sleet, and in the broiling heat, running their little feet off to eke out a miserable pittance, while the above-named millionaires were raking in the shekels out of these starvelings' marrow and life-blood,—struck their little blow. But puny as the blow was bound to be from these children, it

acquired a swing and force that none other of the present strikes could boast of. A positive public opinion steered and nerved the youngsters; their cry and their demands called forth a positive response from the public heart, beating strongly under a public vest. When the valuable public sentiment was at its height, it was suddenly pricked. Treason broke out among the leaders of the newsboys. And what treason!

One of them, in genuine political labor fakir style, tried to reach prominence at the expense of his fellows, in the politicians' eyes; with the expectation of gaining "political pull;" he was promptly turned down; but hardly was this danger averted, when a new one, and even a greater one, followed. Two of the leaders are now under bail under charges of blackmail and extortion. The affidavits for their arrests set forth that last Monday they went to the office of Patrick T. Duff, a "World" representative, and offered for the sum of \$600 to call off the strike from Yorkville to the Borough of the Bronx, stating that, "if they did not get the money, they would make the strike stronger than ever, as they could get money to carry it on from some of the opposition dailies which were being benefited by the strike."—all in the approved pure and simple labor fakir style.

These newsboys' leaders begin early. Their minds, poisoned by the miasmas of the putrid movement that has for years been called the "Labor Movement," can conceive of no greater "cleverness" than the "cleverness" of the adult fakir, who allows himself to be used as a tool by the Capitalists in their competitive struggles with one another, and is ever ready to sell out his fellows, who place confidence in him, to either or to both of the Capitalist concerns to whom he is willing to be a cats-paw.

Capitalism, and its first-born, fakirism, are rotten ripe for the mud-scow.

## "TEN-HOUR CRIMINALS."

Despite the disastrousness, for the workers, of the recent trolley-men's strike in Greater New York, the capitalist forces of the land seem decidedly incommenced by one of the slogans that the strike gave rise to:—"Ten-Hour Criminals." From New York, as far West as Chicago, the slogan is being written on, commented on, and attempted to be perverted by the capitalist dailies, with a unanimity and insistence that are significant.

The ten-hour day is a law in New York for railway employees; it is one of the "Labor Laws" of the State; it was enacted expressly for the purpose of protecting the workingman; the law was simply brazenly violated—by whom?—by the companies, of course. "Ten-Hour Criminals" was, accordingly, a groan that went up naturally from the breasts of the stricken workmen when, instead of the law-breaking companies being hauled over the coals, the strikers found THEMSELVES rolling in the dust under the blows of the policemen's clubs. The charge, hurled at the companies in particular, went home and has been felt by the whole Capitalist class; hence their mouthpieces feel constrained to meet it; and they do in such manner that it were money in their pockets if they had left it alone.

"Anglo-Saxon Legislation," a term with which the Capitalist papers seek to intellectually brow-beat the workers, in whose hearts the slogan, "Ten-Hour Criminals," is reverberating, can afford no consolation to those papers or the class they stand for. It is not true that "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," as those papers claim, "throws upon each individual the full responsibility for his acts." "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" is not the stupidity that the stupid-criminal Capitalist class lackeys would make it out; nor yet is it the barbarity that these gentlemen would imply it to be. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" knew Human Nature, and it is upon Human Nature that it built the elaborate superstructure of its "Public Policy" theory, together with all the supplemental legislation raised thereon. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," knowing Human Nature, recognized the fact that individuals there were who, owing to their occupation or other circumstances, were exposed to imposition and needed protection, and that "Public Policy" required the shield of Society to be held over them. Accordingly, to quote just two instances, taken one each from vastly distant ranks in the social ladder, "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" held the Aegis of the Law over sailors and seamen, on the one hand, and over public officials, on the other.

The sailor and seaman, strong and robust, intelligent and quick-witted though he proverbially is, is a ready prey to the sharks ashore; his pursuit, the sea, disables him from competition with the wiles of the land-man; he is unsophisticated; in their hands he is like a child. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" did not "throw upon him the full responsibility for his acts;" it came to their assistance and protected them by law, the neglect of which had to be borne, not by them in common with the other fellow, but by the other fellow exclusively.

Public officials, influential though they were, and in so far powerful, suffered from a special weakness; their office exposed them to expenditures that

they could ill afford. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" did not "throw upon them the full responsibility for their acts;" it came to their assistance and protected them by law, the neglect of which had to be borne, not by them in common with the other fellow, but by the other fellow exclusively.

In the one case, as in the other, the throwing of the full responsibility of their acts upon the classes mentioned was considered contrary to "Public Policy," and, what is more, the principle prevails even to-day, although the public official's status has improved marvelously. Based upon a sense of the knowledge of Human Nature, of a feeling of justice and right, "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" helped the weak. "Labor Laws" are but an off-shoot of the principle.

The working class, owing to the conditions that prevail, cannot have "thrown upon it the full responsibility for their acts;" to do so were inhuman, consequently, contrary to "Public Policy." Wholly dependent upon the Capitalist class for a living, and whipped to sell themselves for a living by the scorpion-scourge of WANT, humane legislation, "Public Policy," "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," if you please, peremptorily demands that, while such conditions prevail, the workingman shall be shielded against his extortioners, aye, against himself, against the weakness of his status. This is unquestionably the principle at the bottom of "Labor Legislation." It is, accordingly, stupid, and it is as criminal as it is stupid, to invoke "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," as the Capitalist papers are now doing, in favor of the theory that if the Ten-Hour law is violated, then, not the employer only, but the employee also is guilty; "both are criminals;" and, "if the former is punished, the latter should be punished also."

Capitalist Society has torn loose from all the moorings of human feelings raised by the wisdom of the ages. On the ocean of the world's history, it has become a derelict, that, the sooner it is despatched to the bottom, the better.

John N. Parsons is making sad experience. First, the Republican Stock Exchange "bears," through the Republican Postmaster, get him to start a strike on the Metropolitan traction lines; and, thereupon, the Democrats pull the strings tied to their fakirs in the Tammany Hall Prince's Central Fakirated Union, and Parsons' strikers' union is sat down upon and pronounced a union on paper.

## POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The New York "Sun" styles the New York "Labor Convention," called to meet on August 7, to nominate candidates for judicial offices only

A project of foolishness of which none but incorrigible agitators would be capable.

Not so!

"Foolish," indeed, were the idea of really seeking to protect the working class by electing judges only; however powerful judges are to-day, however hard and unconsciously they press upon the working class, their power for mischief is not inherent in THEM; it is a reflex of the power for mischief that is centered elsewhere, to wit, in the Legislatures; without a Democratic Republican Capitalist Legislature, the Judiciary would be impotent, for the simple reason that the Legislature has the constitutional power to impeach the judges; with a Legislature that at any moment could hurl them from the bench into civic infamy, the judges would mind their p's and q's; without such Legislature, and especially with one of their own ilk, they can, of course, do what they do with impunity. Accordingly, to capture the judiciary only, and leave the Legislature and the Executive in the hands of the bandit Republican-Democratic class is like paring the claws of the tiger. "Incorrigible agitators," indeed, were the Uttopians who conceived and trusted in such a measure for the relief of labor.

But the project is neither "foolish" nor its promoters "incorrigible agitators." "Foolish" acts are usually unintentional; "incorrigible agitators" are usually well-intentioned wool-gatherers. The project is rascally, and its promoters are the regulation fakirs.

The Hoboken, N. J., "Observer," in commenting upon a decision of the local court, the purpose of which is to deprive the Socialist Labor Party of the use of the streets for public meetings, and in that way limit its opportunities for agitation or throw money into the hands of hall proprietors for rent of halls, says naively:

The police force is maintained by municipalities at the public cost to preserve order and protect life and property. Anything that may tend to obstruct them in the exercise of their duties or to render those duties more difficult of performance, if willful, is an offense against municipal government.

Another question, and one of equal importance, is the right of the public to the free and unrestricted use of the streets. It is scarcely necessary to state that the streets are supposed to be open to the general public without classification or distinction of any kind and in all well regulated cities ordinances exist dealing with just such matters.

Here we have a slinging about of big words: "Municipality," the "rights of the public," "obstruction of public thoroughfares," etc., and their use in the capitalist class sense.

What is the municipality but the working class? What is the police force maintained by if not the working class? Can the municipality obstruct itself? Ridiculous!

## A WARNING.

That the dust raised by recent events in New York should confuse many at present is natural; indeed, that's part of the purpose of the dust-raising. As the dust settles, much that is unclear now to some will become clear enough of itself. Nevertheless, there is one subject, and one of much importance to sympathizers as well as Comrades, upon which it were well to dispel the dust as soon as possible. That subject concerns the National Executive Committee.

The matter presents itself in two aspects.

With the growth of the Party, a natural desire has arisen to elect the National Executive Committee in such a manner as to render it more NATIONAL. The desire had already been formulated into two concrete propositions, one emanating from Boston, another from Minneapolis; and the recent turmoil in New York, entrusted at present with the responsibility of electing, etc., the National Executive Committee, has given fresh impetus to the desire for some other system. Indeed, the question is now frequently heard: Does not this New York row prove that the present system of electing the National Executive Committee is wrong?

It is not our province, nor is it our purpose here, to venture an opinion upon the wisdom or lack of wisdom of changing the system. Our purpose upon this point is to clear away a misconception, which, if it take root, may seriously interfere with the adoption of a possible good new plan: the best of plans if supported by wrong arguments will suffer in discussion; and it cannot but be the unanimous wish of all the Comrades to have the National Executive Committee elected in the best, the safest way possible.

The belief that the recent turmoil through which New York has gone is proof positive that a new system has become imperative, is a belief that proceeds from a false comprehension of what it is that did happen; it proceeds from a false, a dangerously false, comprehension of the cause of the present disturbances throughout the whole Party. It is a dangerously false comprehension of the case, because the real cause being overlooked, it may continue, or reappear at some later time. The circumstance that the National Executive Committee is now elected by one city, in this City of Greater New York, had, when closely examined, nothing whatever to do with the case. The cause of the shock that the Party has received is, exclusively, the circumstance that the mechanism of the circulation of its national organs was wholly OUTSIDE of the Party's hands, was left wholly IN the hands of an organization that, being an incorporated body, could, dishonorably, of course, yet effectively, for a time defy the Party. In possession of this mechanism—the paper's mail list, P. O. permit for second class matter, advanced subscriptions, books, etc.—the Publishing Company was enabled to be ahead of the Party several days, to spread its startling "news" from one end of the country to the other, and to throw the Party into confusion and consternation for some little time. Had it not been for this circumstance, neither would the rumormongers in New York have had any more effect or significance than the recent troubles in Cincinnati or Milwaukee, nor, and this is much more to the point, WOULD THE KANGAROOS HAVE DARED THEIR ILLEGAL STROKE. DARED, however, with the weapon that the Party had entrusted them with, they felt themselves strong, and imagined themselves omnipotent; indeed, their power waxed, until it has now become simply impotent hysterics, in the measure that THE PEOPLE reached the comrades, and thus the Party's voice was again heard. From that moment on, the ship straightened up again gradually.

Now then, whatever other system of electing the National Executive Committee be adopted, nothing can prevent a dishonorable organization (should it ever again find itself in external possession, according to law, of the mechanism of distribution of Party papers) from seizing upon them, and again attempting a coup d'etat against the Party, as the Kangaroos have recently done.

A secondary point, closely connected with the above is this other, that should serve as a warning against the dangerous illusion so prevalent in many minds, that wrong can be wholly guarded against by constitutional provisions. It is admitted by the Kangaroos that they proceeded unconstitutionally; their argument, like ten years ago, is that there was no time to spare, "something had to be done quickly," etc.; why, they pride themselves in having proceeded revolutionarily. Against such behavior there is no such thing possible as effective constitutional guarantees. Despite all law to the contrary, murder and fraud and house-breaking flourish.

No change imaginable in the method of electing the National Executive Committee can render the Party safe against either of these two closely linked together evils: they can be prevented only by keeping the Party press in the safest way possible, and by promptly, energetically, relentlessly stepping upon the head of Treason and crushing it. There is no other way.

There is a second aspect in which the matter presents itself. From the sorrow into which the Publishing Association plunged our membership throughout the land flows another serious mistake, a mistake that is natural, but that it is important to guard against, lest the Party play into the hands of its unhalloved enemies. From several sources the cry now comes to take the seat of the National Executive Committee immediately from New York. If the cry came only from the few spots where latent treason has been unmasked, it would deserve no notice; but it comes, tho' not from numerous, yet from several honorable sources, and the Kangaroos are seeking to fructify the feeling.

Again be it understood that neither under this head is it our purpose to enter the lists in favor of or against any Section. Our purpose is another. The membership of the Party cannot decide the truthfulness or untruthfulness of the bulk of the charges and counter charges brought. Nothing short of a judicial investigation could, and

upon that fact do the gentlemen of the Publishing Association rely for immunity. But neither is a decision upon the bulk of these charges and counter charges needed. Certain facts stick out like peaks over a deluged field. These facts need no judicial investigation to establish them; they are party admissions and partly Party documents.

1. The Party constitution provides clearly that ALL the Sections located in the city that is chosen as the seat of the National Executive Committee, elect by general vote the National Executive Committee, and, if they see fit, suspend it in the same manner and submit their action to the referendum of the whole Party; the National Convention chose the City of Greater New York as the seat of the National Executive Committee, and that action was unanimously ratified by a general vote; since then three elections for National Executive Committee have taken place, besides a number of bye-elections to fill vacancies; at each such election all of the many Sections located within the territory of Greater New York participated by general vote, and each time the tabulated returns were reported in the Party's organs, THE PEOPLE and the "Vorwaerts." All these are matters known to be facts by our membership, and, if they have slipped the memory of any, can be easily verified.

2. The gentlemen who undertook to suspend the National Executive Committee ADMIT that they were, at best, only the General Committee of one Section. All questions as to whether they or the supporters of the National Executive Committee were or were not the majority at the General Convention; as to whether this or that side started disturbances, etc., etc., are merely confusionary and irrelevant. The "suspension" proceedings were illegal, revolutionary so, according to the "suspension" own admission.

3. The attempted answer of the Association to THE PEOPLE'S "Sign Posts," article of last April 2, an answer that the Association mailed to every subscriber, contains not a single denial of any important allegation, and these allegations were all found to be true by the investigation conducted by Section New York and published. The Association consists of many non-Party members, and it upheld the conduct of the "Volkszeitung," which, contrary to the Association's own constitution, assailed the Party tactics, through a non-Party member on the editorial staff of the "Volkszeitung."

4. The Association, over the signatures of its own Board of Directors, laid claim to proprietary rights in the Party's national organs.

5. The bogus PEOPLE does not attempt to deny the charge that the "Volkszeitung" has boodled, is inconvenienced by class-conscious political action by the Party, and has thereby lost nearly one-third of its circulation.

6. No denial has even been attempted to the well-established charge that non-Party members and Labor Fakirs, Philip Bauer among them, led the attempted forcible entry into the Party's premises on the night of the 10th of last month.

7. The Democratic party's taxation articles and falsified statistics of the "Volkszeitung" are matters of record.

8. The policy pursued by the National Executive Committee was not only decreed by the Party, but was being overwhelmingly supported by its membership.

Etc., etc., etc.

These facts, from 1 to 8, and many more, stand out clear. They brand the conduct of the "Volkszeitung" element as corrupt and treasonable; they point to interests at its back that the Party is in the field to combat and knock down.

Now then, what, under such circumstances and at this season, would the transfer of the National Executive Committee to some other city mean but an invitation for similar elements to try the same thing over again at the new seat of the National Executive Committee? What else would it mean but to render the Party's National Executive Committee the football of the dirtiest interests in the land, and keep it rolling . . . ?

Men enlisted in the Party are enlisted for the arduous, rugged work of the Social Revolution. May feelings of weakness overcome them? The transfer of the seat of the National Executive Committee, at this season and under these circumstances, would mark a victory for the foe, whose claws are sticking out in plain view; and—though Section Greater New York would never falter by the treatment—such treatment would, at this season and under these circumstances, be a humiliation that the Party's foes will applaud to the echo, a humiliation that can only rebound to the Party's ill, and that the Section does not merit, least of all at this time, when its fortitude saved the Party from a grave calamity.

Let not the desire for "peace" bring dishonor on the Party. Peace without dignity means degradation and decline, with greater troubles in its wake.

Recovered from its present shock; purified of elements that none but the blindest or most credulous can now fail to see were a hindrance to the Party's progress and foes in disguise; let us all hasten to dispel the confusing dust of the conflict and so deport ourselves that the Party may emerge from this trying hour without having made one slip, honored, respected and trusted by the American proletariat for the fortitude of its conduct, its self-respect, and the integrity of its spotless career.

## Apothegms in Rhyme.

[Written for THE PEOPLE by W. E. C., Somerville, Mass.]  
Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter and her daughter have caused a small rebellion in Simla by demanding regal homage.  
Mr. William W. Astor is again causing trouble by his attempts to become a leader in English society.—News items from the papers.

All India swore they would smile her.  
But their threats did in no way frighten her:  
For she can pour in a flood  
Good coined workers' blood.  
So society must bow before Leiter.

Ab, weep, wail England, wail and weep,  
And let the tears flow faster:  
You were plunged in sorrow's downy-keep  
When Will the First did cross the deep.  
But now the Lord of Hides and Skins  
In a rain of Yankee gold begins  
The conquest under Astor.

"While men may be starving," Carey said,  
"I never yet would work them;  
And, tho' no cannibal, I claim  
That I can live upon them."



## Uncle Sam and Brother Jonathan.

BROTHER JONATHAN (looking the picture of gladness all over)—Oh, I feel so happy! It is coming! It is coming! I knew it would come, but I never imagined it would come soon enough for my old eyes to see it. It is coming fast!

UNCLE SAM—What, pray? What?

B. J.—Socialism, of course!

U. S. (looking at B. J. suspiciously)—Why, of course, it is coming. That's nothing new, or that it is coming has either. I have been telling you that all along.

B. J.—Yes, but I now see the signs of it; these signs were not there before. Hurrah!

U. S. (looking behind and to the right and left of B. J.)—How you talk! I see nothing very particular that has happened over night.

B. J. (testily)—Well, I do.

U. S. (looking up into the skies)—What?

B. J.—Jones! Toledo Jones! May Jones! That's what's happened!

U. S.—Bosh!

B. J.—Doesn't he talk Socialism? Doesn't he say he is a Socialist? Doesn't he denounce the capitalists?

U. S.—Give us a rest! Did you ever hear of Pingree?

B. J.—Yes, the scoundrel! My brother in Detroit was employed in his shoe factory, and had to strike for even living wages, and lost!

U. S.—And didn't he "talk Socialism?"

B. J. scratches the back of his head.

U. S.—And didn't he say he was a Socialist?

B. J. scratches the left side of his head.

U. S.—And didn't he "denounce the capitalists?"

B. J. scratches the right side of his head.

U. S.—And did you ever hear of William R. Hearst—

B. J. (giving a start)—Of the "New York Journal?"

U. S.—Yes; did you ever hear of that bird?

B. J.—The contemptible scoundrel and coward! Why, don't you know what he has just done? He raised the prices on his newsboys! Two of my little boys earn a living peddling his paper, and they are now on strike.

U. S.—You seem to know him. Now, why are you so indignant about him, and call him a coward?

B. J.—For mighty good reasons. He doesn't dare to tackle the grown men who are working for him; but the little boys, the most defenseless of all—them the coward squeezes. He has just had a strike of men on his hands on his ranch in California; there he does not seem to fear men; but here he does, and he therefore tries to get it out of the hides of the poor newsboys!

U. S.—Correct, old boy, correct! Now didn't this labor-skinner Hearst "talk Socialism" in his paper?

B. J. relapses into silence.

U. S.—Didn't he denounce the "blood-sucking capitalists?"

B. J. takes off his hat and scratches the top of it.

U. S.—Didn't he—

B. J.—Yes, yes, yes; he did, and so did that Pingree—

U. S.—And so does Jones now; Jones, owner of oil-wells and of other monopolistic labor-skinning concerns. Your brother got bitten by Pingree; your two little boys got bitten by Hearst; and here YOU are ready to be bitten by Jones. When will you have had enough?

B. J. (collapses like a dish clout)—But how is one to know?!

U. S.—How is one to know? Easy enough: by applying everyday common sense. You heard the fable of the wolf protesting his love for the sheep? Well, you wouldn't take any stock in such protestations? Would you take stock in the protestations of the wolf Of course not. Why not?

B. J.—Because it ain't in their nature to be other than they are.

U. S.—Now, apply that everyday bit of common sense to the Social Question. The capitalist class are like the wolf and the sheep; the capitalist must live on the workers or die. That is his "material interests," that is his "class interests." All the phrases that a capitalist may use against "blood-sucking capitalists," "grinding monopolies," "Socialism" and the like are but baits to catch us with; they are like the protestations of the wolf and the sheep. "No phrases" must be our device. Does a man want to help us abolish the wage system of slavery and enslave the working class? Then let him say so without reservation or circumlocution, and let him then join our ranks, and fight all others who won't. But if a man does not come out for this demand plump and plain, then he is a fraud, or what is equally, if not more, dangerous, a fool; in either case, we must give him the widest berth possible. "No more Pingrees," no more Hearsts, no more Joneses!—That and the principle back of it must be a motto with us; the moment that it is lost sight of, that moment we are gone with our heads right into the dragon's mouth.

## NOTICE.

The comrades who, on the memorable night of July 10, were gathered on the Party's premises and stayed to the last, are requested to send in their full names and addresses. They are being called for.

The receipt of a sample copy of THE PEOPLE is an invitation to subscribe.







